



Santulan Society

Madhya Pradesh

SANTULAN SOCIETY



Registration No.: 25608 – 22.08.1992

Village – Kukru, Tehsil – Bhainsdehi, District – Betul, Madhya Pradesh

**Office: 'ENERGY TOWER', 64, B-Sector, Kasturba Nagar, Bhopal - 462 023
Madhya Pradesh, INDIA.**

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INTRODUCTION

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When a group of conscientious individuals decided to contribute their mite for Rural Development in KUKRU – a tribal village in remote corner of Betul District in M.P. – their guiding factor was the famous saying of Swami Vivekananda: “Nothing can be done with Empty Stomach”.

Therefore, the primary objective of **SANTULAN SOCIETY** was to ensure Income generation – which would be followed by Education and Health – Care. The methodology was to promote sustainable agricultural activities – with which the villagers are accustomed and further they have land resource which however is not so fertile, in view of extreme scarcity of water in semi-hilly terrain.

All the activities of Santulan Society have been funded by members and member organizations till today. Besides others, **Santulan Society initiated several activities such as:**

- **Construction of Dug-wells** to store rain water for consumption of human beings and cattle – 8 wells dug; wells are still useful
- **Development of Goatary** by giving 5 goats to each family
- **Cultivation of Medicinal Plants** – for the benefit of local inhabitants
- **Cultivation of CITRONELA**, an Aromatic Grass used as mosquito repellent, under guidance of Regional Research Laboratory of CSIR in Jammu – There was bumper crop from second year
- **Fruit Plantation** – Bengal Currant (Karonda), Tamarind (Imli) – Grafted, Lemon (Neemboo), Mango (Aam), Guava (Amrood), Indian Gooseberry (Amla), Indian Lilac (Neem), Wild Cherry, Black Plum (Jamun), Spanish Cherry (Bakul), Indian Beech (Karanja), Bengal Quince (Bel Patra), Indian Jujube (Ber), Jackfruit (Kathal), Mulberry (Shahatoot) and Almond (Baadaam)



ABOUT SANTULAN SOCIETY

SANTULAN SOCIETY
(Registration No. 25608 dated 22.08.1992)

1. BACKGROUND:-

Santulan Society (Santulan) is the social face of Consolidated Energy Consultants Ltd. (CECL).

The Mission and Vision of CECL is based on the saying of Swami Vivekanand :

“ So long as the Millions Live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them.”

Therefore right from beginning CECL was conscious of their social responsibility to render services and assist the most deprived/under developed population in their struggle for existence.

CECL decided that the main objective should be to ensure income generation for the extremely poor community since – as Swamiji said – “Nothing can be done with empty stomach”.

When CECL ventured into the emerging sector of harnessing Wind Energy for generation of electricity and identified the area surrounding the village Kukru as potential site, as a coincidence it was also observed that Kukru area is inhabited by extremely poor Korku tribe and is an ideal location to experiment income generation activities.

In fact, the very idea of harvesting wind energy at Kukru was for producing electricity to run a Milk chilling plant so that the milk produced in the area – the only commercial product and that too in plenty – can be transferred and sold to nearby market at a distance of 100 Km and connected by rather poor road.

It was felt that if milk is chilled and transported to the nearest market, it would readily provide a source of income for the poor Kukru population which incidentally had large cattle population.

The village Kukru is located at the Southern end of the State of Madhya Pradesh bordering Maharashtra. The village is about 100 Km from the District Head Quarter at Betul and 280 Km from the State Capital Bhopal.

The main village – Kukru – is on a barren hill-top at an altitude of 1100 masl. The village had a population of 52 Tribal families (now it is 101 families). Just below the hill top is an area habituated by 8 families of Gawlis (Cattle heard rearing community).

The weather condition in Kukru is very pleasant. Even during peak summer months except for 2-3 hours between 1 PM to 4 PM it is very pleasant. The temperature drops to 3-5 degrees in winter. It is also quite cold during monsoon.

The annual average rainfall is about 1200 m. During on set of Monsoon the cloud comes down to ground level and visibility reduces to 10 feet. Such conditions at times continue for 7-10 days at a stretch when sun-shine is just not available and there is fungus development on plants.

Once upon a time Kukru had huge forest cover with Teak and Bamboo. Now however it is only barren Hill tops with infertile Morrums Soil.

The villagers main profession is cattle rearing and cultivation of coarse cereals like Kudu and Kutki.

Kukru had two major logistic constraints – communication and perennial water shortage.

Road conditions were very poor and it used to take 10-12 hrs. to cover the 280 Km distance from Bhopal. Further- due to water logging at places. Kukru was just not approachable during monsoon months.

The first thing CECL initiated was to get 3 culverts constructed – through personal intervention of a dynamic and progressive minded District Collector – Mr. Hoshyar Singh. This made Kukru approachable throughout the year.

Now however there has been lot of improvement in past two decades in road communication and the village can be reached in 6-7 hours from Bhopal.

Availability of water-however-remains a problem even now.

2. THE FORMATION :

On successful implementation of the first Wind Turbine Pilot project – CECL was convinced of possibility for large scale wind energy projects in the area.

To mitigate our Social Responsibility of Inclusive Development, it was felt necessary to create a Non-Profit Social Service Organization to render services to the local-extremely poor population in the area.

With like minded people – SANTULAN SOCIETY was formed on 22nd August, 1992. Immediate objective of SANTULAN was to facilitate Income Generation and provide basic facility of water resource.

It was decided to create Income Generation through available Human Resource for Plantation, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry.

Since the initial activities would by and large be of experimental nature and the outcome may be uncertain, it was decided that no financial assistance shall be availed through Govt. sponsored projects and the entire financial requirement will be met through Voluntary Donation from members of the society.

CECL has been providing the free logistic support right from beginning and has also been providing donations on several occasions. CECL made substantial donations whenever it earned reasonable profit.

In fact CECL realized its Social Responsibility much more before the Concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (C.S.R.) was introduced in the country.

Income Tax Registration was granted to SANTULAN as a Charitable Trust on 17th March 1994 and was also granted exemption u/s 80G for donations.

The society was also granted special exemptions u/s 35 A.C. (100% tax benefit) on 12.12.1995 for Rs. 8 Lakhs for 96-97, 97-98 & 98-99.

The present members of the society are:

1. Shri. M.K. Deb
2. Dr. Mrs. S. Deb
3. Dr. G.D. Agrawal
4. Shri. Vibhuti Jha
5. Dr. Mrs. S. Dutt
6. Shri. D.D. Sharma
7. Shri. Rajan Deb - Secretary

The founder member Shri. M.K. Deb had purchased a 5 Acre Plot from non-tribal Gowli family and had constructed a cottage on the plot.

Shri. Deb offered the land and facilitates for experimental activities of SANTULAN free of cost.

3. **ACTIVITIES:-**

Two pronged activities were planned at Kukru:

- A) Income Generation initiatives
- B) Creation of Water resource

A) Under Income generation initiatives two activities were considered:

- a) Animal Husbandry – Goatary
- b) Plantation

A –a) **Goatary:**

Since the villagers have substantial cattle population – it was considered beneficial to them to rear goats which are highly reproductive and can be sold in local market – after 2/3 years.

A cooperative was formed for the beneficiary villagers under the name of Adivasi Bahu-Uddeshya Shakhakari Samiti Maryadit (ABSSM).

Out of the Donations received under section 35 A/c –169 Nos. female goats were given to 33 families @ 5 goats per family and 4 female goat was provided to one family. 9 male goats were given to 9 families.



Immediately on arrival of Monsoon huge number of goats died due to severe cold and skin disease.

After monsoon fresh 90 goats were purchased and replaced.

Further, our Technical Assistant was sent to a Goatary Farm near Nagpur to get first hand knowledge on vaccination and treatment of usual diseases.

The total cost incurred in the Project was Rs. 3.21 Lakhs.

Very unfortunately the scheme did not succeed since:

- 1) Villagers did not take proper care of Goats
- 2) Quite a few butchered and ate meat during marriages
- 3) A large number died due to infection.
- 4) A good number were taken out by Leopards from nearby forest – who became frequent visitors to attack un-protected goats.

We consider the main reason to be our failure to convince the villagers about their ownership right and long-term benefit.

A –b) **Plantation:**

At the very initial stage we experimented with several trees:

Eucalyptus	:	5% success
Su Babul	:	5% success
Bamboo	:	10% success
Mango	:	The tree survived but there was no fruit
Guava	:	The tree survived but there was no fruit
Lemon	:	There was bumper crop in the second year but the plant died on 3 rd year.

We strongly felt that plantation of Medicinal Plants would ensure benefit in short term and villagers shall be able to handle such activities – once we train them on plantation and after care after our demonstrative farming in 5 Acre land belonging to Shri. Deb.

None of the Society Members really had any on-hand experience on plantation/Farming and we decided to avail services of expert Agencies/Institution.

Experts from following Agencies/Institutions were invited to suggest and guide us on cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and also Folder:

	<u>Agency/Institution</u>	<u>Plant</u>
i)	Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhuvaneshwar	Aromatic & Medicinal Plant
ii)	C-MAP, Lucknow	-do-
iii)	Narmada Valley Research Centre, Hoshangabad	Locally available Medicinal Plant.
iv)	Indian Grassland and Forage Research Institute, Jhansi	Fodder Cultivation
v)	Agriculture College, Sehore	-do-
vi)	Bhavnagar	Fuel wood
vii)	CAZRI, Jodhpur	Seena Seed Plantation
viii)	School of Life Science- Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	For Tissue-cultured sturdy and fast growth plantation
ix)	Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Of C.S.I.R., Jammu	Citronela Plantation
x)	Dabur Foundation	Aola Plantation
xi)	Sabuj Biplab Bolangir, Orissa	Six different Medicinal plants

None-except one – succeeded due to either:

- : Termite infection
- : Fungus development due to low cloud over
- : Absence of bare minimum irrigation
- : Absence of Soil Nutrition

The only plant that survived was the Citronela grass supplied by RRL, Jammu. In the first year after plantation, nothing grew but surprisingly on the second year the entire plantation grew up.

When the Citronela Grass was considered –it was in high demand both in India and International Market. But looking at the vast demand, China took up plantation in Millions of Hectares and due to bumper crop, the price in the International Market came down by 90% and we had to abandon future plan.

ACTIVITY – B: WATER RESOURCE:

Right at the initial stage- The ground water survey was conducted through Hydrology Deptt. of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and it indicated that no ground water source is available in the area.

Attempt was made through several Water-Diviners and at one location – Bore well was attempted but even after 200 ft. boring no water was available.

Mr. Deb got a 20 ft. deep Dug well constructed and it was full to the brim after the monsoon. In the next year it was attempted to deepen the well by another 10 ft. Very unfortunately in the process of blasting – the side walls developed cracks and

now the well gets emptied within few days after monsoon even after trying out cement plastering and water proof painting to stop the leakage.

SANTULAN society got Five dug-wells and a storage tank constructed was built for the natural spring near the village. Out of 5 Dug wells 3 Nos. Dug on storm/monsoon water stream succeeded.

One particular Dug well constructed on a Nallah – on South Western side of project area was provided with an Earthen Dam and this now provides water through out the year. Villagers on their own have constructed two more Dug wells on this Nallah.

3. OTHER ACTIVITES:

Besides the attempts for Goatary, Plantations and Water Resource, following other miscellaneous activities were carried out:

- (i) Community Centre Building was constructed to facilitate storage, sitting accommodation for a likely visiting Doctor and or a counter for Bank. Unfortunately nothing did materialize due to various constraints. The total cost was Rs. 2.04 Lakhs.
- (ii) A Hybrid Wind-Solar System was installed for Battery Charging and 10 Nos. of Solar Lanters were provided to the villagers – with rechargeable facility. The system worked for a year or so but had to be abandoned due to regular maintenance problem and theft of Solar Panel from roof of cottage. Cost incurred Rs. 1.17 Lakhs.



- (iii) As initiated by Govt. of India under Swacch Bharat Mission – one typical Toilet was constructed by Santulan at a cost of Rs. 20,000/- as against the Government estimation of Rs. 12000/- .



Kukru – as such has severe water problems and putting water in the toilet is a luxury – except during monsoon months.

Subsequently few villagers have constructed Toilets under Govt. grants which are of very poor in quality and are collapsing within a year.

- (iv) In association with Bharat Sevasram Sangha, Bhopal, 100 LED Torches were distributed among the villagers.



4. **RECENT INITIATIVES :**

As we are convinced that plantation is the ideal option for Income generation in Kukru-area in view of local population being experienced in cultivation and are having barren land, we decided to explore various options for plantation.

We studied and analyzed several options on consideration of their suitability under prevailing conditions and also the marketing and profitability aspects.

The Secretary visited Lac Research Institute of ICAR at Ranchi and also Semialata Plantation (on which Lac is cultivated) near Raipur, Chattisgarh.

The Secretary also visited CIMAP of ICAR and a Private Planter at Lucknow U.P. to explore cultivation of Khas (Vetiver).

But ultimately we found none to be suitable for our area considering the land quality, irrigation facility and expert manpower availability.

Finally we decided to go for Horticulture and initiated – two activities-

- a) Creation of water source for bare minimum watering of plants during summer months.
- b) Plantation of various types of fruit trees which appeared to be suitable.

a) **Water Source:**

In view of high rainfall in the area, we constructed a storage tank of dimension 12mx10mx3m depth by using excavator.

To avoid seepage – we have laid 500 Micron HDPE sheet procured from Tarpaulin India.

Further, to minimize evaporation we have provided a 90% shade Black-Net cover on the tank.

The total cost incurred is Rs. 93,000/-

Mr. Deb has recently availed Electric Connection and we shall be able to run a small pump for watering of plants.

We are hopeful that during the current monsoon the pond will be filled up.





(b) After consideration of several options we have planted the following fruit bearing trees:-

Plant Name	:	Number of Plants
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1. Bengal Currant (Karonda)	:	170
2. Tamarind (Imli) – Grafted	:	150
3. Lemon (Neemboo)	:	130
4. Mango (Aam)	:	24
5. Guava (Amrood)	:	12
6. Indian Gooseberry (Amla)	:	12
7. Indian Lilac (Neem)	:	12
8. Wild Cherry	:	10
9. Black Plum (Jamun)	:	07
10. Spanish Cherry (Bakul)	:	06
11. Indian Beech (Karanja)	:	05
12. Bengal Quince (Bel Patra)	:	04
13. Indian Jujube (Ber)	:	04
14. Jackfruit (Kathal)	:	04
15. Mulberry (Shahatoot)	:	04
16. Almond (Baadaam)	:	01

Total Number of Plants = 555

Santulan intends to plant 200 additional Lemon (Neemboo) saplings in the area.

We got 1mx1mx1m pits excavated for plantation of above trees through excavator and have also provided a 2 ft. deep cattle protection trench all around the plot. Pits have been treated for anti-termite, anti-fungus and single super Phosphate.

The total cost for the plantation from FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21, has been Rs. 3,28,517/-. During this period (i.e., FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21), Santulan provided employment opportunities to 255 Tribal inhabitants, including 188 males and 67 females, thereby disbursing a total of Rs. 73,150/- on manpower. Santulan has already spent Rs. 25,000/- towards plantation activities in the current Financial Year, i.e., FY 2021-22, making the total expenditure on plantation activities to rise up to a figure of Rs. 3,53,517/-, from FY 2018-19 till now.



5. **CONSTRAINTS:-**

We have following major constraints in our operation at Kukru :-

- (i) Specialized, dedicated and comprehensive technical guidance for plantation.
- (ii) Dedicated supervisory staff at Kukru.
- (iii) Shortage of funds for employing full time workers to look after plantation and watering.
- (iv) Traveling to Kukru from Bhopal is costly and strenuous.

6. **FUTURE OUTLOOK:-**

We would continue to do experimentation for different type of plantations – eg.

Plants of commercial value

Medicinal plants having high demand

Horticulture

Fodder cultivation

We are negotiating with competent and dedicated agencies in India and abroad to jointly conduct Demonstrative Plantation – which can subsequently be propagated to largely Tribal Population in and around Kukru where thousand Hectares of barren land is available.

The Community Projects will essentially pave way for Tribal Women Empowerment through generation of local-level employment opportunities for the inhabitants.



CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Details

Mr. Rajan Deb

Secretary

Mobile : +91-9826055479

E-mail : santulansociety.mp@gmail.com

Website : www.santulanindia.org

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‘ENERGY TOWER’

64, B-Sector, Kasturba Nagar

Bhopal - 462 023

Madhya Pradesh, INDIA.

Tel.: +91 (0)755 2600241-43, 4058931

Fax: +91 (0)755 2600240

Bank Account Details

M/S Santulan Society

Current Account Number: 53020637306

RTGS/IFSC Code: SBIN0030135

State Bank of India, Shahpura Branch

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.